long. The Airport at Trivandrum was declared as International Airport with effect from 1st April, 1991.

The airports at Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Goa, Guwahati and new Cochin airport at Nedumbassery have recently been declared as international airports.

International flights are already operating from airports at Bangalore, Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Goa and new Cochin airports. No airline has, however started international operations from Guwahati airport so far.

Majority of the airlines use Medium Capacity Long Range (MCLR) and Small Capacity Long Range (SCLR) aircraft for international operations. These aircraft can land upon a runway length of 9000 ft. The airports which have facilities for SCLR and MCLR aircraft and also international traffic potential have been declared as international airports.

Cultural Melas

*412. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to promote cultural affinity and interaction among the youths of SAARC, Government propose to organize cultural melas which will further strengthen friendly relations and understanding; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR):

(a) and (b) Youth delegations from SAARC countries are invited to participate in the National Youth festivals held by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in January every year. These festivals include cultural programmes.

Proposal to set up Cultural Centres

*413. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up some cultural centres in the different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, under the scheme of "Setting up of Multi-purpose Cultural Complexes in the States including those for children" a maximum grant of Rs. 1.00 crore is given to a registered autonomous organization set up by the State Government for setting up a Multi-purpose Cultural Complex in the State.

(b) the name of the States which have been given grant under the existing scheme is as follows:—

1. Sikkim
2. Mizoram
3. Manipur
4. Tripura
5. Bihar
6. Orissa
7. West Bengal
8. Madhya Pradesh
9. Karnataka
10. Kerala
11. Jammu & Kashmir
12. Haryana
13. Punjab
14. Pondicherry.
15. Nagaland

(c) and (d) Do not arise.